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suggests that the interpretation in terms of unit factors may be a rather gross analysis.

A. B. S.

Two works have just appeared of interest to taxonomists and some other botanists. The last supplement of *Index Kewensis* brings this indispensable work down to the end of 1910, and includes citations to thousands of species and near species described during the four years that have elapsed since the previous supplement. There are more than two thousand species of *Hieracium* cited, and as to *Crataegus* and other prolific genera an equally astonishing number of new names are listed. A new departure is the failure to italicize what the authors of the work consider untenable names, in the present volume, although they have indicated their preferences in this regard.

A supplement has also been issued by Dr. Carl Christensen, of the *Index Filicum*.

N. T.

NEWS ITEMS

We quote in part, from the following letter of Dr. E. D. Merrill in regard to the death of Dr. C. B. Robinson, noted in *TORREYA* for January: "Dr. Robinson was murdered on December 5, 1913, about 8 miles from the town of Amboina by six Mohammedan natives of the island of Boeton. The island of Amboina is entirely pacific, and there has been absolutely nothing to fear from the inhabitants of that island. Dr. Robinson's voluminous progress reports make no mention whatever of any difficulties with the natives, and the idea that harm might result has never been entertained by ourselves in Manila, by Dr. Robinson himself, or by the Dutch officials in Amboina. The coincidence of these six Mohammedans coming from the distant island of Boeton, their meeting with Dr. Robinson on one of his botanical excursions, and his resulting murder were matters that could not be foreseen and could not be guarded against. . . . The results

of his work in Amboina will not be lost, for his collections, notes, etc., are intact, and are being forwarded to Buitenzorg, whither I shall probably go to receive and care for them. However, nobody but Dr. Robinson can do justice to the work of correlating the collections with the plants described and figured by Rumph, although his progress reports, very extensive and detailed, probably over 60,000 words, will help to clear up many points." An account of Dr. Robinson's life and work will appear in an early number of the *Bulletin*.

The following new appointments of members of the gardening staff at Kew are quoted in *Nature* from *Kew Bulletin*: Mr. G. S. Crouch, to be assistant director of horticulture in the Egyptian department of agriculture; Mr. T. H. Parsons, to be curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, Ceylon, in succession to Mr. H. F. Macmillan, who has been appointed superintendent of horticulture in the department of agriculture, Ceylon; Mr. C. F. Allen, to be curator of the Botanic Garden, Port Darwin, Northern Territory, South Australia, in succession to Mr. N. Holtze, deceased.

At the meeting of the American Phytopathological Society recently held at Atlanta the following officers were elected: *President*, Dr. Haven Metcalf, Washington, D. C.; *Vice-president*, Dr. Frank D. Kern, State College, Pa.; *Counsellor*, Professor H. R. Fulton, West Raleigh, N. C.

Dr. J. C. Arthur and Mr. F. D. Fromme of Purdue University are spending the month of February on a botanical trip to the southwest. They will visit a number of localities in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona where certain species of Uredinales, whose life histories are incompletely known have been previously collected.

Mr. E. H. Wilson, whose recent book on western China was reviewed in *TORREYA* for January, has gone to Japan for a two years' collecting trip.